

in the work. May God bless him in his new work; altho he is absent in person, we shall not forget him at the throne of grace

MRS. SADIE GIBBONS.

Financial Appeal.

What in the world is the matter, brethren of Pennsylvania? Did you forget that you have a *Home Mission Board*? or if you did have you forgotten that there is an old debt yet unpaid? Counting to close of conference year with month of May, there is but Listie, Johnstown and Philadelphia churches that have paid their quota and most of them have not been heard from at all. Besides Philadelphia's quota was voted to the New Jersey work and has been so applied. Our old debt is not yet paid and former work being all lost because we do not have the means. I would publish itemized account if I was not ashamed of the record. Suffice it to say the amount received since my last report (which will be found in number 1 of B E) has come from Brother Spanogle, our standby, and a little from E. Conemaugh and sisters Dffenbauch and Mollie R. Gantz. We certainly should be able to raise our year's quota when we have a conference year of eighteen months. What will you do?

R. Z. REPLOGLE, Sec.

Our General Mission Work

It is very distasteful to me to so frequently appeal for money in a public way, as it looks bad, it sounds bad, and it is bad that we have to parade the poverty of our missionary treasury before the public gaze, but I do not know how else to keep the needs of our brethren who depend upon the generosity of their brethren for support before them in any other way.

There has been commendable readiness to respond to calls for help ever since I am connected with the work but somehow the last few months the brethren seem to turn a deaf ear to all kindly notices. Be assured brethren that there will be no crying for help as long as the larders of Brethren Talley and Lyon are full. They keep me well posted on that point so I am not at all likely to make a mistake. Let me say to all who may read this notice that the work cannot prosper without your help. If you all say let some one else give, the work must stop, and if by the support of others it is sustained, what share will you have in it?

I want to say as gently as I can that the Board is in absolute need of immediate help. I trust the pastors will make mention of this fact from their pulpits so as to avoid an unrecoverable shortage in our general work. Let there be a shaking up all along the line.

JACOB C. CASSEL,

Sec. M. B. of the B. C.

For all of us the road has to be walked every step, and the uttermost farthing paid. The gate will open wide to welcome us, but will not come to meet us. Neither is it any use to turn aside: it only makes the road longer and harder — *George MacDonald*

The Sunday School

LESSON 1—JULY 1, 1900

Jesus Walking on the Sea.—Matthew 14:22-33

Golden Text.—Of a truth thou art the Son of God. Matt. 14:33.

Lesson Thought.—Our hope and safety are not in the absence of danger, but in the presence of Jesus.

Time.—A D 29 during the first half of April. The evening and night following our last lesson.

Place.—On the Sea of Galilee, and on its shores

Persons.—Jesus and the disciples.

Home Readings

Mark 1:32-36; Luke 5:12-16; Ps 107:23-31; Mark 4:35-41; Isa. 41:8-14

Lesson Text

33 And straightway he constrained the disciples to enter into the boat, and to go before him unto the other side, till he should send the multitudes away.

23 And after he had sent the multitudes away he went up into the mountain apart to pray: and when even was come, he was there alone.

24 But the boat was now in the midst of the sea, distressed by the waves; for the wind was contrary.

25 And in the fourth watch of the night he came unto them, walking upon the sea.

26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is an apparition; and they cried out for fear.

27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee upon the waters.

29 And he said Come. And Peter went down from the boat, and walked upon the waters, to come to Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, Lord, save me.

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and took hold of him, and saith unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

32 And when they were gone up into the boat, the wind ceased.

33 And they that were in the boat worshipped him, saying Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

Lesson Links

The five thousand had just been fed on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. The people had sought to make Jesus a king because of his miracle. In fact they took the carnal view of the miracle that Jesus by doing this miracle had proved himself the long expected Messiah.

Lesson Story

The people were about to take him by force and proclaim him the Messianic king, when Jesus almost forced the disciples into a boat and sent them to the western side of the sea.

The People's Conception of Christ

The word "constrained" used in the scripture here, shows how unwilling the disciples were to leave when Jesus was about to be made king, also how anxious Jesus was that they be got away and the multitude be dispersed.

Why did he not want to be crowned king? Because the people's ideas of what kind of a king he should be were wrong. He had not come to be a king who would provide bread for a lot of unspiritual followers, nor to reign over men like earthly kings, but he came to be their king in the real sense, the king of their spiritual kingdom. He wanted as sub-

jects in his kingdom, not men who honored him because he fed them, but because they believed he only could show them the way to eternal life, and were willing to live as he told them.

The Multitude Dismissed

So, the multitudes who were wild with the excitement that had arisen over the prospect of having a king who would feed them while they went forth to overthrow the Romans and restore the earthly kingdom of Israel, were doomed to disappointment. This was a crisis of Christ's life. It was a temptation again to take the carnal way to success rather than the spiritual; to rely on men, rather than on God; to conquer by the sword rather than by the cross.

Hence, Jesus hurriedly dismissed the crowd, told them, probably, that their ideas were mistaken, and urged them to go home. They departed, but with a feeling of wonder that Jesus would not be king and probably disappointed and mad because Jesus did not appreciate their efforts. But Christ's thoughts were not theirs. And this showed Christ what he had yet to do before the people came up to his conception of his kingship. Even the disciples had the old notions about it yet.

Prayer on the Mountain

With the sad conviction in His heart that the people's expectations were so gross after so long a time that he had taught them, Jesus went up into a mountain near by to lay his burdens before his Father and to seek strength from above. And there above he sought the help he needed. There is no sorer trial comes to a man than the trial of his faith, when he has tried to raise the people from low ideals to high and realizes that he has failed. This was Christ's trial now. But he went to the only source of help.

The Ship In the Sea

But engrossed as he was in his own troubles Jesus did not forget the disciples. There away to the west, under the glittering rays of the passover moon, Jesus could see the little ship tossing on the waves, and he knew that the disciples must be toiling almost in vain against the strong wind that had risen since they left the shore. He let them toil until their own powers were tried, then he went to them. Over the waves of the sea, as tho they had been frozen Jesus walked toward them. As he approached the disciples saw him. They were frightened. They thought they saw a spirit or spook. They could not realize that Jesus could walk on the water. And in their fear they cried out.

"It Is I; Be Not Afraid"

Their cry of terror brought a word of assurance. "Be of good cheer. It is I; be not afraid." How often when we have feared Christ, he has given us a word of assurance and love. Our ignorance, our unbelief makes us fear Christ. He is not to be feared, but loved by his disciples. He knows and cares for us. When Jesus appears to